

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

In the September 23, 2004 Office Action, Examiner Campbell found claims 1-16 to be allowable.

Judicially Created Obviousness-type Double Patenting and Objection to Claims

Claims 17, 18 and 21 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-49 of U.S. Patent No. 6,740,586. Claims 19-20 and 22-24 were objected to but according to the Office would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As such, applicants have amended independent claims 17 and 21 to introduced subject matter of objected to claims 19 and 22, respectively and amended claim 18 to depend from amended claim 21 thereby obviating the rejection of claims 17, 18 and 21 under obviousness double patenting. Additionally, applicants have cancelled claims 19, 22 and 24 because the subject matter is now recited in amended independent claims 17 and 21, thereby placing all pending claims in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants have satisfied the requirements for patentability. All pending claims are free of the art and fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. It therefore is requested that Examiner Campbell reconsider the patentability of all pending claims in light of the distinguishing remarks herein, and withdraw all rejections, thereby placing the application in condition for allowance. Notice of the same is earnestly solicited. In the event that any issues remain, Examiner Campbell is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (919) 419-9350 to resolve same.

Respectfully submitted,



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